

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 12 as follows. The status of each of the claims in this case are also set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed comprising a plurality of side by side bars bendably connected with each other to allow the whole extent of the connected bars to be shortened and extended and to be curved, said bars being disposed generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bed, one of every adjacent two of the bars is provided with a plurality of longitudinal connecting protrusions being generally ~~perpendicular~~ parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bed while a plurality of recesses are formed in adjacent bars for accepting protrusions extending from an adjacent bar, in such a manner that the connecting protrusions of the bars can be inserted into corresponding recesses of an adjacent bar, said protrusions having at tips and bases thereof first and second beveled portions, respectively, forming clearances between the protrusions and corresponding recesses to allow the connecting bars to be bent in one direction, and disengagement preventing means comprising hooks formed at a tip of some of the connecting protrusions, and corresponding accepting recesses having steps therein adapted to engage the hooks, so that the hooks and steps are engaged with each other when the respective adjacent bars are kept furthest away from each other.

2. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein a bar disposed at an end of the bendable bottom member on one side has only accepting recesses.

3. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein first beveled portions are formed on lower sides at tips of the connecting protrusions while

second beveled portions are formed on upper sides at the bases of protrusions, to use the bendable bottom member as a bendable portion between ~~the~~ a back region and ~~the~~ a waist region.

4. (Currently Amended) A bendable member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein first beveled portions are formed on upper sides at tips of connecting protrusions while second beveled portions are formed on lower sides at the bases of protrusions, to use the bendable bottom member as a bendable portion between ~~the~~ a waist region and ~~the~~ a leg region.

5. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein the second beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

6. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein hooks formed at tips of connecting protrusions are provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in ~~the~~ corresponding accepting recesses.

7. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 2, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to desired bending angles with adjacent bars.

8. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed, according to claim 3, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to desired bending angles with adjacent bars.

9. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 4, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to desired bending angles with adjacent bars.

10. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 2, wherein hooks at tips of connecting protrusions are adapted to engage with steps formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

11. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 3, wherein hooks at tips of connecting protrusions are adapted to engage with steps formed in corresponding accepting recesses.

12. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 4, wherein hooks at tips of connecting protrusions are adapted to engage with steps formed in corresponding accepting recesses.

13. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 5, wherein hooks at tips of connecting protrusions are adapted to engage with steps formed in corresponding accepting recesses.